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HALBERT JACOB STRAWN.

1847--1917.

(By S. E. QUINDRY, in the Albion Journal.)

With the closing of the old year, December 31, 1917, Albion, Illinois, lost one of her foremost citizens, in the death of Halbert Jacob Strawn. He was born in Perryopolis, Fayette county, Pennsylvania, May 16, 1847, the son of Jesse and Rachel King Strawn. Two brothers of that family survive, Dr. E. K. Strawn of West Newton, Pa., and W. R. Strawn of Albion, the latter having been for thirty-five years the trusted business associate of the deceased.

At the age of sixteen Halbert J. Strawn enlisted in Company B, 85th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. His company was later transferred to the 188th Pennsylvania, and he served with that regiment during the remainder of the war. One of the most interesting features of his very interesting life was the thrilling experiences he had in numerous engagements, among which were the battles of Strawberry Plains, Deep Bottom, Fort Gregg, Petersburg and Appomatox. He was wounded at the battle of Deep Bottom and suffered throughout his life from the hardships he endured in the service of his country. He never felt, however, that his sacrifice was greater than his country deserved. After Lee's surrender he remained in the army in the Freedman's Bureau Service until December, 1865, when he received an honorable discharge.

After the war he went to Winona, Minn., and from there to Southern Indiana, where he engaged in teaching. There he became acquainted with Cassandra Harris, whom he married at Griffin, Indiana, in 1870. For forty years they lived together in faithful companionship, the fond parents of a large family of children, two sons, Lloyd George Strawn and John H., and seven daughters, Ray Strawn Ives, Margaret Strawn Parman, Myrtle Strawn, Virginia Strawn, Eva

lyn Strawn Odum, Hallie Strawn Alderman and Bernadine Strawn. Only two of this family died before the subject of this sketch. The mother died only a few years ago and the oldest son Lloyd, departed this life Sept. 7, 1895. John H. is now stationed at Uniontown, Pennsylvania, where he occupies a high government position as National Bank examiner and receiver, a position which he has ably filled for several years. Ray Strawn Ives and Hallie Strawn Alderman both live in Florida and are prominent in the social life of that state. Margaret Strawn Parman lives in St. Louis, where her husband enjoys a lucrative practice as a physician. Evalyn Strawn Odum resides at Springfield, Illinois, her husband being a member of the legislature and private secretary to one of the State officers and a lawyer by profession. Myrtle and Bernadine are both engaged in the teaching profession, the former in the city schools of Los Angeles and the latter in the high school at Bridgeport, Ill. Virginia remained with her father since the death of her mother. To relieve his suffering and prolong his days was her daily care for many months preceding his lamented death.

Judge Strawn located in Albion in 1870 and commenced the practice of law and soon became identified with the important events of his country and section of the state. His particular fondness for his profession added to his natural zeal for his client's interest gained him a rapid rise in the profession and for forty-five years he was known as one of the ablest advocates at the bar of Edwards and adjoining counties. He enjoyed an extensive practice in the Appellate and Supreme courts also. During his professional life he has helped a great number of young men who are deeply indebted to him for their start in the profession and to whom they owe all for their subsequent accomplishments. Had Judge Strawn been located in a more profitable field for his line he would have gained great renown as a lawyer, for he had few equals in native ability in that profession and his application to his work has never been excelled.

For fourteen successive years he was State's Attorney of his county. He served for a short time as Grain Inspector under Governor Tanner and was one of the powerful factors in that once powerful political organization in Southern Illinois. He was master in chancery at the time of his death.

He never failed a friend and never lost a friend. He forgot himself in his zeal for others. When age softened and mellowed the antagonisms of earlier years his political antagonists came to know and admire his magnanimity and kindly interest in others. He only kept books in politics to see how much he was indebted to others and gratitude was taught by him to all his political associates as both a moral and practical virtue.

Deeply interested in the cause of education he gave time and money to its advancement and was one of the main supporters of the Southern Collegiate Institute as long as it existed. Always interested in the nobler and sublimer things of life he was an earnest and active member of the Albion Post G. A. R., Hermitage Lodge No. 356, A. F. & A. M. and of the Royal Arch Masons. Judge Strawn was an active member of the Illinois State Historical Society.

The funeral service was held at the Christian church, of which he was a faithful member, for nearly half a century and of which he was for many years a member of its Board of Trustees. Elder Rose, a friend of long standing and close intimacy, delivered the sermon. In accordance with an agreement made fifteen years ago, Comrade Green, the survivor, officiated at the funeral and spoke some tender words over the remains of his friend, who through many long years had been to Comrade Green "closer than a brother." The Masonic lodge gave their impressive funeral ceremony and the body was taken to Graceland cemetery and laid to rest beside the bodies of his departed wife and son.